**Downtown Development Authority of Augusta**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 16, 2024**

**DDA Offices, 1101 Greene Street**

The Downtown Development Authority held its monthly meeting on May 16, 2024 at 10 am at the DDA offices located at 1101 Greene Street.

DDA Board members and staff in attendance were Chairman Jack Evans, Pastor Anthony Booker, Phuong Nguyen, Executive Director Margaret Woodard, Project Coordinator Corbin Freeman, Media Specialist Tara Wood and Legal Counsel Jeb Murray. Guests in attendance were Derek Dugan of the Salvation Army, John Snider of Serotta Maddox & Evans and downtown residents Susan Echols, Steve Echols and Sandra Naulte.

Mr. Evans called the meeting to order at 110:05 and thanked everyone for attending. Without a quorum, Mr. Evans asked Derek Dugan, Development Director, to give an update on the Salvation Army. Mr. Dugan shared that fundraising is underway for the soon-to-be-built Salvation Army Center of Hope. Once funds are raised construction will take 12 to 18 months. The new center will be located on Hale Street. They have introduced a new initiative to give one free bus ride per ticket to the area homeless population. These tickets provide transportation, a meal and shelter for one night at the current SACH on Greene Street.

James Heffner and Commissioner Jordan Johnson phoned into the meeting at 10:32. With a quorum in place, Mr. Evans asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a real estate matter. Pastor Booker made the motion with a second by Phuong Nguyen and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evans asked for a motion to exit out of executive session at 10:45. Mr. Heffner made the motion with a second by Phuong Nguyen and the motion passed unanimously.

Once the DDA Board Meeting was resumed, Mr. Evans asked for a motion to approve the inducement resolution with Framework for a mixed-use residential project on the Curtis Baptist Property. Commissioner Jordon Johnson made the motion with a second by Pastor Booker and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Woodard introduced the consent agenda in Mr. King’s absence, which included the March 2024 meeting minutes and March/April 2024 Financial Reports. There were no questions or comments. Pastor Booker made the motion to approve the consent agenda with a second by James Heffner and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Woodard introduced the Director’s Report and updated the board on the following:

**Economic Development**

Lamar Bldg.- Developer is closing on construction loan and has inducement agreement for review.

Brunch House is seeking an equity partner.

King Mill- Local Bank is working on construction loan.

Grand Villas- Georgia Cities Loan Application underway.

Bradley’s Barbeque- SSBCI Loan Application has been submitted.

600 Broad- Construction documents are 100 percent completed and submitted for permits. Fundraising is underway and a Phase 2 grant was submitted 4.5.

Gather Greenville was in town 4/9.

Demographic reports have been updated and loaded on website.

AT Master Plan Consultant has been selected.

Outdoor Adventure Center consultant has been selected and will make a site visit on 5/16.

Community Meetings for 401 Walton Way held 4/1.

**Design**

Arches are completed and project close-out is underway.

SPLOST reimbursements have been received from the city.

Entertainment Zone Public Meeting is scheduled for 5/30 at 1:30 pm at the library.

**ACE Program**

8th quarterly report submitted to the city on 4/17.

Last pay request for $225,000 has been paid.

10,757 block faces cleaned;345trash bags disposed; 112 area of graffiti removed.

**Chronic Vacancy Committee**

Vison Institute in town 4-25-26.

Committee meeting held 5/6.

Next steps- Building Registry Ordinance and Revolving Loan Fund.

Visit to Macon on 4/20.

**Organization**

Collaboration Luncheons 3/27 and 5/5.

LA Executive Forum 5-1-5-4.

Commission Update 5/7.

Under new business, John Snider of Serotta, Maddox & Evans presented the DDA 2023 audit. With no questions or comments, Pastor Booker made the motion to approve with a second by James Heffner and the motion passed unanimously.

Under new business, Ms. Woodard presented a façade grant application for 473 Broad Street. Frederick Neely made improvements to the building facade and spent $100,000 to bring the building up to code. The request in the façade grant application is $5000. Pastor Booker made the motion to approve with a second by Phuong Nguyen and the motion passed unanimously.

In closing, Chairman Evans asked staff and board to continue their hard work and efforts in improving the economic climate of downtown Augusta.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen King, Secretary-Treasurer